

## REMARKS

Applicant has deleted the “bulbous portion of the ship’s hull” from claim 40, and hence, the drawing objection is moot.

On the merits, U.S. Patent No. 3,348,081 to Willyoung shows (Fig. 1, col.2, lines 34-end) a stator core 2 with radial cooling passages 5. The passages 5a, 5b in alternate axial sections of the stator core respectively convey coolant 30 inwards to the air gap 11 and coolant 33 outwards from the air gap. The radial passages 5 connect to surrounding circumferential compartments defined by partitions 8 between the stator core 2 and the gas-tight stator casing 1. These compartments serve to isolate inflowing coolant 30 from outflowing coolant 33. After cooling the stator core, the outflowing coolant is passed through cooling heat exchangers 9 and then circulated by fans 10 back to the air gap 11, either directly, or via compartments feeding the inflow passages 5a.

The main structural differences between Willyoung and applicant’s claimed invention as defined in independent claim 21 are:

- (a) Applicant recites coolant supply and exhaust ducts, whereas Willyoung is a closed circuit arrangement within the machine casing; and
- (b) Willyoung does not disclose a matrix of coolant duct sections with the same characteristics as defined in claim 21. Claim 21 recites that the first face of the matrix communicates with the stator core passages, and that the second face of the matrix communicates with the coolant exhaust ducts, and that some of the coolant duct sections in the matrix communicate directly with the coolant exhaust ducts through the second (i.e., for stator cores, radially outer) face of the matrix. However, though Willyoung discloses direct communication of cooling ducts with stator core passages, it doesn't disclose direct communication of cooling ducts with coolant exhaust ducts through the second face of the matrix.

Hence, Willyoung does not anticipate applicant's construction as claimed in claim 21. This construction is advantageous, e.g., in facilitating improved cooling of electrical machines in situations where cooling air must be conveyed away from the machine in a non-axial direction.

U.S. Patent No. 6,583,526 to Griffith, et al., was first published on March 13, 2003, based on an application filed October 13, 1999, shortly after our convention priority filing date of September 1, 1999. It cannot therefore be used to show the state of the art at our priority date. In any case, since Willyoung fails as an anticipation of our invention, the combination with Griffith et al. cannot be used in an attempt to prove obviousness of claims 35-37.

U.S. Patent No. 1,402,875 to McCallister cannot be used in an attempt to prove obviousness of claim 40 since Willyoung fails as an anticipation of the invention.

Petition is hereby made for a two-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to June 15, 2004. A check in the amount of \$420.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRSCHSTEIN, OTTINGER, ISRAEL & SCHIFFMILLER, P.C.

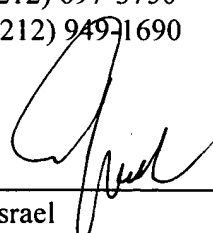
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

489 Fifth Avenue

New York, New York 10017-6105

Tel: (212) 697-3750

Fax: (212) 949-1690



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Alan Israel  
Reg. No. 27,564